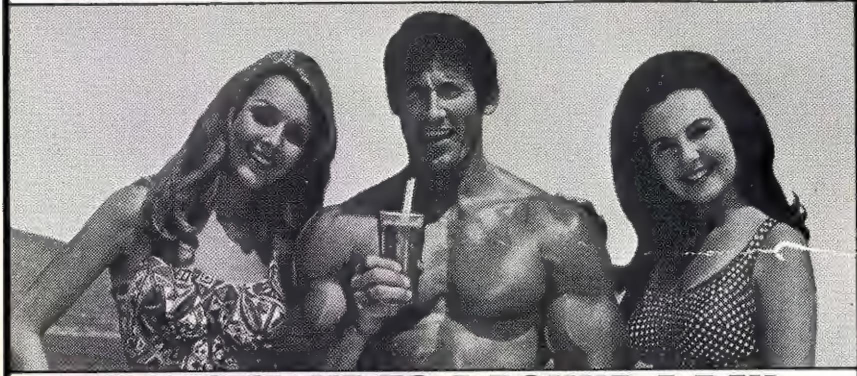
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
Fantastic Four
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
76 JULY
...STRANDED IN
SUB-ATOMICA!

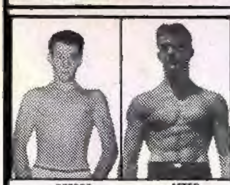
Tired of Being 'SKINNY'?

DRINK ON POUNDS OF WEIGHT FAST—THE FUN WAY!



GAINS OF UP TO A·POUND·A·DAY PROVEN BY THOUSANDS

IT'S DELICIOUS! IT'S WILD! The new taste-sensation "CRASH-WEIGHT GAINING PLAN" developed by Joe Weider, "Trainer of Champions", "Architect of Beauty" helps you drink on pounds... UP TO A POUND A DAY easily and enjoyably while you rest... relax... watch TV... sleep. Men, women and children... see measurable gains instantly and say goodbye to your skinny, undesirable string-bean body... NOW!



BEFORE AFTER

HERE'S LIVING PROOF IT WORKS—FAST

Used with amazing results by tens of thousands of men, women and children for more than 7 years! Now, you too can take this guaranteed way to build up your caloric intake for fast and substantial weight gains!

BEFORE AFTER

GAINS 18 LBS. IN 14 DAYS!

The "before" photo shows how Larry Chamiel looked without the added weight he needed so badly. The "after" photo shows Larry 14 days after he started the **Crash-Weight Plan** and gained 18 pounds. He writes: "What more could a guy ask for? All I did was add 4 glasses of Crash Weight Formula #7 to my regular meals, follow Joe Weider's Plan and I gained a tremendous 18 pounds in two weeks!"

SHOULDN'T THIS HAPPEN TO YOU?

GAINS 14 LBS. IN 14 DAYS!

James Parker of Ft. Worth, Texas writes: "It's Fantastic—I went from 158 to 172 pounds in 14 days. Gained 14 pounds in 14 days and added 2 inches to my chest. I'm more than satisfied!"

SHOULDN'T THIS HAPPEN TO YOU?

DO-IT-YOUR-SELF GAIN-A-POUND-A-DAY KIT!

This is a 1-day supply of **Crash-Weight**, chock full of weight-gaining nutrients that can smash the weight-gaining barrier!

You want to gain a pound a day? Half a pound a day? Maybe you just want to add a few pounds here and there? You want it easily . . . enjoyably . . . without stuffing yourself and counting calories?

NOW YOU CAN

It's simply wild... AND IT WORKS!

You too can follow this amazing Crash-Weight Formula #7 Plan and drink on as much as a pound a day . . . Skinny people are undesirable . . . they look sickly. Say goodbye to your string-bean looks with this sensational new plan—NOW!

No more bloating yourself with rich, heavy foods to force-feed calories into your system. Drink 4 delicious glasses of natural-organic Crash-Weight Formula #7 daily in addition to your regular meals. Follow Crash Weight Plan as directed in the free booklet and you can drink on (in delicious, milk-shake tasting form) mixed with usual household food ingredients, up to 3500 calories along with your regular calorie intake. Then, take it easy . . . while you relax, snooze or watch TV . . . this calorie-packed weight-training drink and the Formula #7 Plan does all the work, piling on weight for you.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE COUPON

JOE WEIDER Dept. 83-68K 4
531-32nd Street
Union City, N. J. 07087

Dear Joe:
I want to join the WEIGHT-GAINABLES. Enclosed find $.............. for your **Crash Weight Formula #7 Plan** which I have checked below. I understand your Money Back Guarantee applies only if I order my Plan through this coupon!

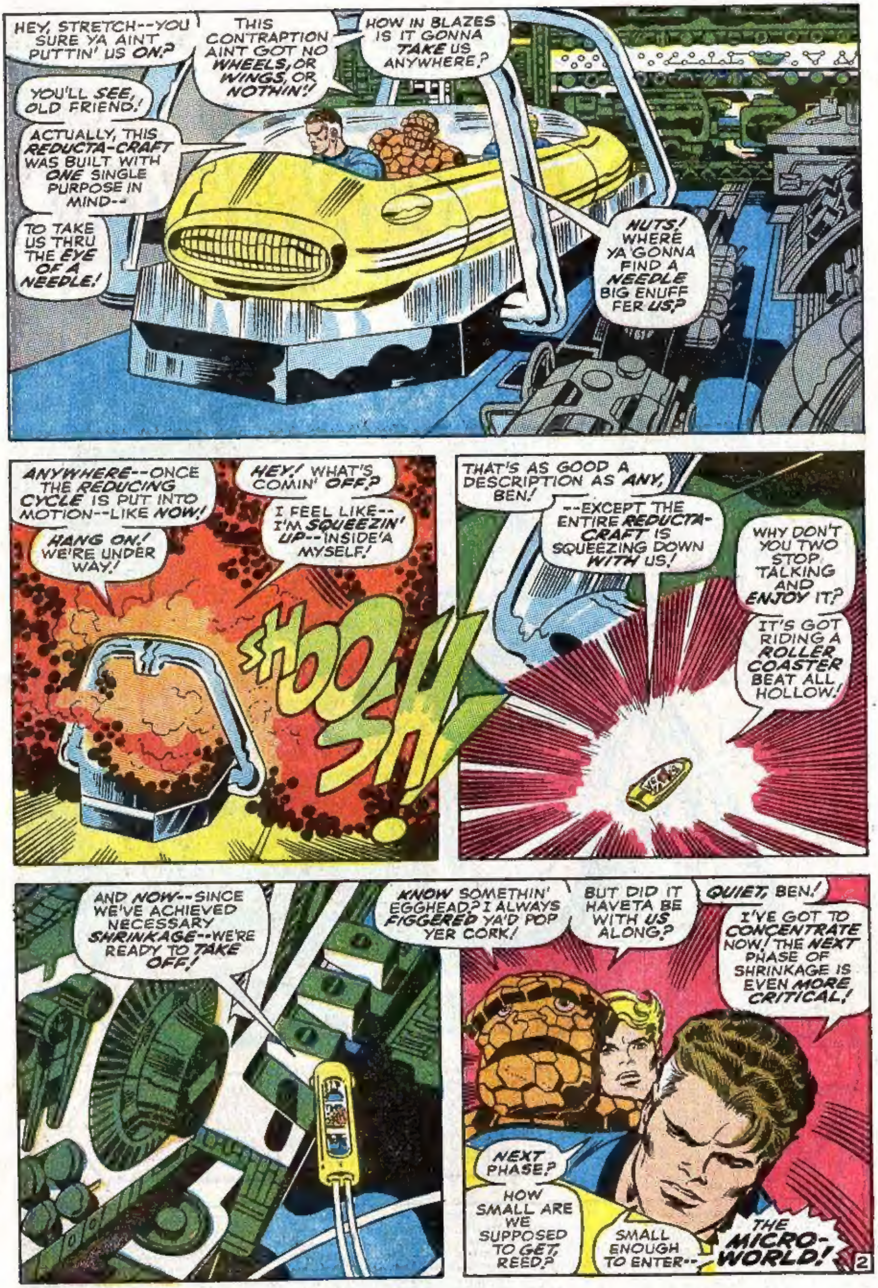
Check one of the Plans below:
☐ 7-Day Supply of Crash Weight #7 Plan .... $ 7.50
☐ 14-Day Supply of Crash Weight #7 Plan $14.98

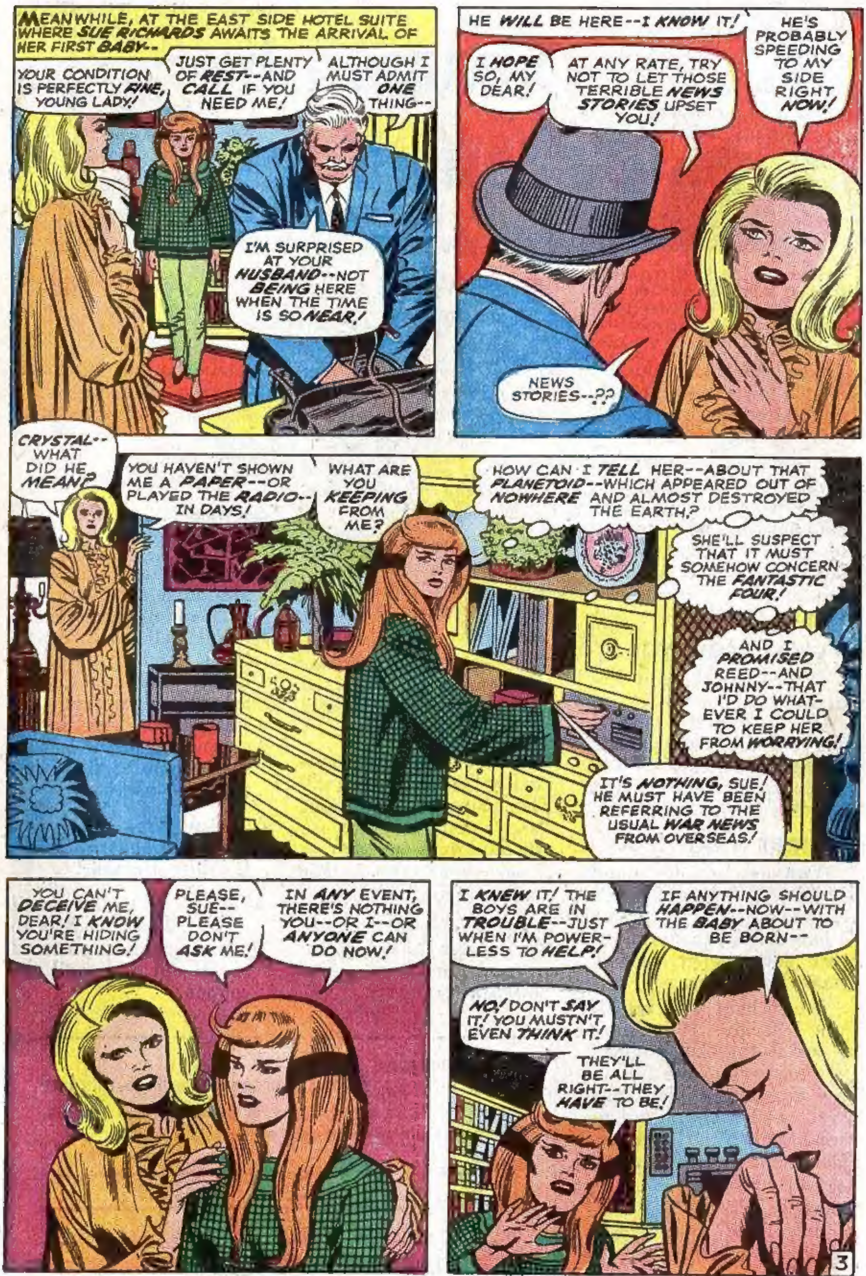
Check flavor desired: ☐ Chocolate ☐ Vanilla

NAME .... AGE ....
ADDRESS ....
CITY .... STATE .... ZIP ....
(Please print clearly)

IT'S NEW! IT'S HERE! JOIN THE WEIGHT GAINABLES! DRINK ON POUNDS-FAST! SAFELY!

FANTASTIC FOUR is published by CANAM PUBLISHERS SALES CORP. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 625 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILLINOIS. Published monthly except November, semi-monthly. Copyright ©1968 by Canam Publishers Sales Corp., Marvel Comics Group, all rights reserved, 625 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022. Vol. 1, No. 76, July, 1968 issue. Price 12¢ per copy. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. by World Color Press Inc., Sparta, Illinois 62286. Subscription rate $1.75 and $2.25 Canada for 12 issues including postage. Foreign subscription $3.25. Prices do not include King Size Special November Issue.


HEY, STRETCH--YOU SURE YA AINT PUTTIN' US ON?
THIS CONTRAPTION AINT GOT NO WHEELS, OR WINGS, OR NOTHIN'!
HOW IN BLAZES IS IT GONNA TAKE US ANYWHERE?
YOU'LL SEE, OLD FRIEND!
ACTUALLY, THIS REDUCTA-CRAFT WAS BUILT WITH ONE SINGLE PURPOSE IN MIND--
TO TAKE US THRU THE EYE OF A NEEDLE!
NUTS! WHERE YA 'GONNA FIND A NEEDLE BIG ENUFF FER US?
ANYWHERE--ONCE THE REDUCING CYCLE IS PUT INTO MOTION--LIKE NOW!
HANG ON! WE'RE UNDER WAY!
HEY! WHAT'S COMIN' OFF?
I FEEL LIKE-- I'M SQUEEZIN' UP--INSIDE'A MYSELF!
SHOOSH!
THAT'S AS GOOD A DESCRIPTION AS ANY, BEN!
--EXCEPT THE ENTIRE REDUCTA-CRAFT IS SQUEEZING DOWN WITH US!
WHY DON'T YOU TWO STOP TALKING AND ENJOY IT?
IT'S GOT RIDING A ROLLER COASTER BEAT ALL HOLLOW!
AND NOW--SINCE WE'VE ACHIEVED NECESSARY SHRINKAGE--WE'RE READY TO TAKE OFF!
KNOW SOMETHIN' EGGHEAD? I ALWAYS FIGGERED YA'D POP YER CORK!
BUT DID IT HAVETA BE WITH US ALONG?
QUIET, BEN!
I'VE GOT TO CONCENTRATE NOW! THE NEXT PHASE OF SHRINKAGE IS EVEN MORE CRITICAL!
NEXT PHASE?
HOW SMALL ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET, REED?
SMALL ENOUGH TO ENTER--
THE MICRO-WORLD!
2



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Don Bolander, M.A., University of Chicago; B.S., Northwestern University; Director of Career Institute; authority on adult education

Shamed by Your English?

You can soon speak and write like a college graduate if you let me help you for 15 minutes a day.

If you've ever been shamed by a mistake in English, maybe I can save you from years of disappointment.

I have met countless numbers of intelligent men and women who are being held back in their jobs and social lives, often without knowing it, because they cannot express themselves fully and easily.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

If people are not impressed by the way you speak and write—and if you're honest enough with yourself to admit it—you have already taken the first big step to success.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO

You can master good English *without going back to school.* Over the years I have helped thousands of men and women *right in their own homes.*

I can help you, too, if you will give 15 minutes a day to the C. I. Method. My answers to the following questions explain why you need a command of good English and how easily you can *do* something about getting ahead.

Question: *What is so important about my ability to speak and write?*

Answer: People judge you by the way you speak and write, both in business and in social life.

Question: *What does a "command of good English" mean?*

Answer: It means you can express yourself clearly and easily without fear of embarrassment or making mistakes.

Question: *Are there other advantages to be gained by acquiring a command of good English?*

Answer: Yes! Words are actually "tools of thought." The more you learn about words and how to use them to form and express your ideas, the better your *thinking* becomes.

Question: *Wouldn't I have to go back to school for a command of good English?*

Answer: No, not any more. You can gain the ability to speak and write like a college graduate right in your own home in only 15 minutes each day.

Question: *How do I know your method works?*

Answer: There are thousands of letters in my files, testimonials from people in all walks of life who have used the proved Career Institute Method to achieve amazing results. If you send in the coupon below, I will share some of these letters with you.

Question: *How can I find out more about the Career Institute Method?*

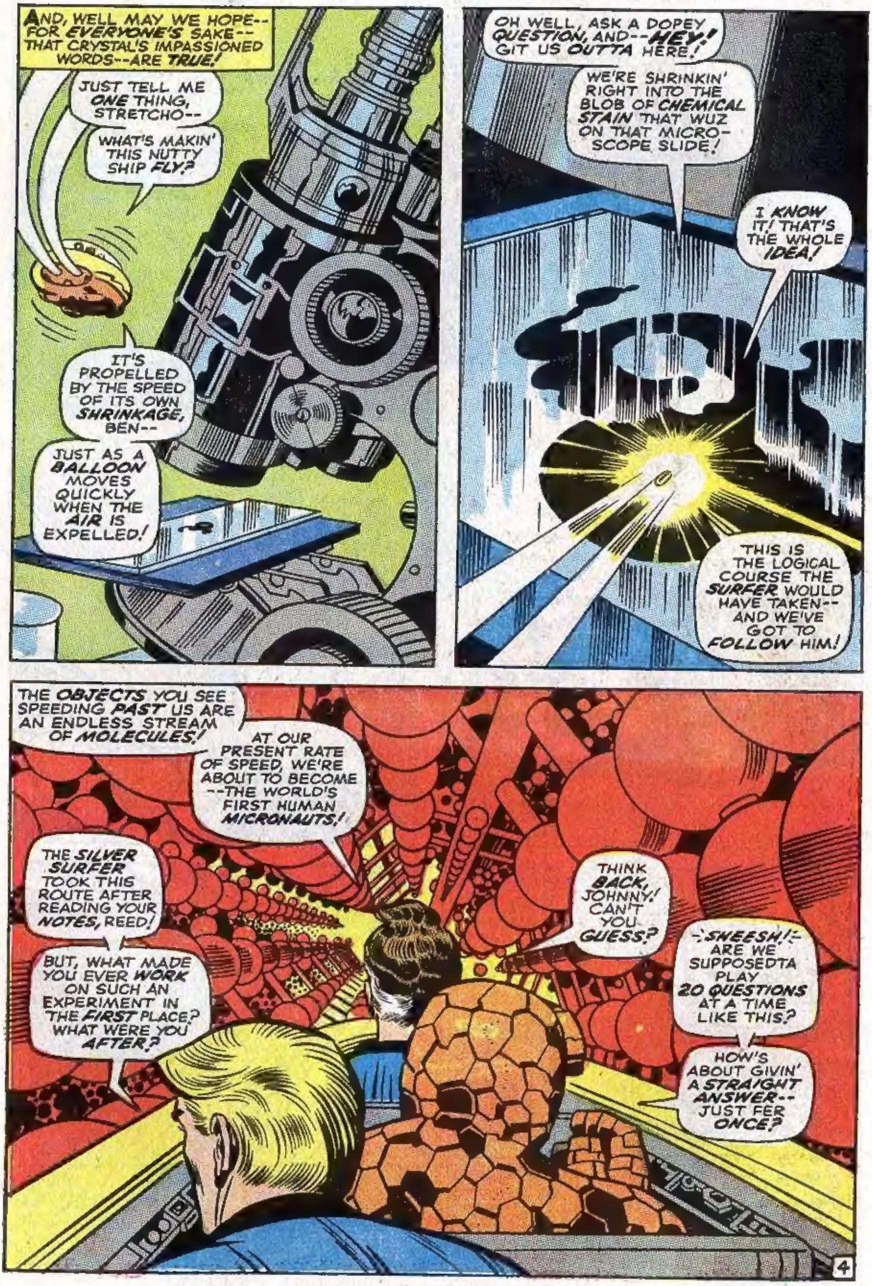
Answer: I will gladly mail a free 32-page booklet to you. Just send a postcard or fill out and mail the coupon.

DON BOLANDER, Dept. 208-26
Career Institute, 555 E. Lange Street, Mundelein, Ill. 60060
Please mail me a free copy of your 32-page booklet, "How to Gain a Command of Good English."

Name____________________

Street____________________

City__________ State__________ Zip Code__________



AND, WELL MAY WE HOPE-- FOR EVERYONE'S SAKE-- THAT CRYSTAL'S IMPASSIONED WORDS--ARE TRUE!
JUST TELL ME ONE THING, STRETCHO--
WHAT'S MAKIN' THIS NUTTY SHIP FLY?
IT'S PROPELLED BY THE SPEED OF ITS OWN SHRINKAGE, BEN--
JUST AS A BALLOON MOVES QUICKLY WHEN THE AIR IS EXPELLED!
OH WELL, ASK A DOPEY QUESTION, AND--HEY! GIT US OUTTA HERE!
WE'RE SHRINKIN' RIGHT INTO THE BLOB OF CHEMICAL STAIN THAT WUZ ON THAT MICRO-SCOPE SLIDE!
I KNOW IT! THAT'S THE WHOLE IDEA!
THIS IS THE LOGICAL COURSE THE SURFER WOULD HAVE TAKEN-- AND WE'VE GOT TO FOLLOW HIM!
THE OBJECTS YOU SEE SPEEDING PAST US ARE AN ENDLESS STREAM OF MOLECULES!
AT OUR PRESENT RATE OF SPEED, WE'RE ABOUT TO BECOME --THE WORLD'S FIRST HUMAN MICRONAUTS!
THE SILVER SURFER TOOK THIS ROUTE AFTER READING YOUR NOTES, REED!
BUT, WHAT MADE YOU EVER WORK ON SUCH AN EXPERIMENT IN THE FIRST PLACE? WHAT WERE YOU AFTER?
THINK BACK, JOHNNY! CAN'T YOU GUESS?
-SHEESH!- ARE WE SUPPOSEDTA PLAY 20 QUESTIONS AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
HOW'S ABOUT GIVIN' A STRAIGHT ANSWER-- JUST FER ONCE?

DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE FOUGHT THE PSYCHO-MAN--THE MICROSCOPIC MENACE FROM SUB-ATOMICA?*
I'VE ALWAYS FEARED THE DAY HE MIGHT RETURN--TO ENDANGER US ANEW!
THEN WE WOULD HAVE MADE THIS JOURNEY SOMETIME ANYWAY--
EVEN IF WE DIDN'T HAVE TO FIND THE SILVER SURFER?
RIGHT! OR ELSE-- WE COULD NEVER BREATHE EASY!
*IF YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ALSO, IT HAPPENED IN THE FF SPECIAL, 1967! --SHARE-A-SECRET STAN.
BUT NOW--OUR FIRST JOB IS TO FIND THE SURFER --BEFORE THE PATIENCE OF GALACTUS RUNS OUT!
ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, THIS IS THE ONLY COURSE HE COULD HAVE-- HOLD IT!!
I'M GETTING SOMETHING ON THE MICRO-SCANNER!
WE'VE FOUND HIM! HE'S DIRECTLY AHEAD OF US!
OKAY! OKAY! LET'S GRAB 'IM AND SKEEDADDLE BACK HOME--WHILE WE STILL CAN!
IT WON'T BE THAT EASY! LOOK! LOOK AT HIS BLINDING SPEED!
HE THINKS WE WANT TO TRAP HIM!
HE WON'T LET HIMSELF BE CAUGHT!
HE'S STARTING TO WHIZ PAST US NOW!
LOOK OUT!
REED WAS RIGHT!
CATCHING THAT LIVING METEOR IS GONNA BE THE TOUGHEST JOB WE'VE EVER TACKLED!
BUT IF WE DON'T BRING HIM BACK--GALACTUS WILL ATTACK--AND THE EARTH IS DOOMED!
JUST GIT ME WITHIN CLOBBERIN' RANGE 'N YER TROUBLES'LL BE OVER!
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN YOUR STRENGTH TO GET US OUT OF THIS ONE, BEN!
WE'D BETTER START PRAYING-- FOR A MIRACLE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

MARVEL SUPER-HERO T-SHIRTS
only $1.60 EA.
PLUS 25¢ FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING
CAPTAIN MARVEL
THE FANTASTIC FOUR
IRON MAN
THE MIGHTY THOR
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
THE AVENGERS
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
IT'S BRAND NEW! A CATACLYSMIC... CAPTAIN MARVEL T-SHIRT!
WRITE SIZE IN COUPON BELOW
YOUTH— MEDIUM, LARGE
ADULT— SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE
MARVEL SWEAT SHIRTS
WE'VE ONLY GOT A LIMITED SUPPLY, FRANTIC ONES, SO RUSH YOUR ORDER IN NOW!
CLOBBERIN'
HERE COMES THE INCREDIBLE HULK
$3.15 EA.
CHARACTERS | SIZE | QUANTITY
FANTASTIC FOUR
THE HULK
AVENGERS
CAPT. MARVEL
CHARACTERS | SIZE | QUANTITY
SPIDER-MAN
IRON MAN
THOR
TOTAL $
PLEASE SEND ____ THING SWEAT-SHIRTS
PLEASE SEND ____ HULK SWEAT-SHIRTS
CHECK SIZE
THING ☐ YOUTH ☐ ADULT
HULK ☐ YOUTH ☐ ADULT
TOTAL $
PLEASE ADD 25¢ PER ITEM FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING. PRINT CAREFULLY. ADD 20¢ EXTRA FOR EACH CANADIAN AND EUROPEAN ORDER. ALLOW 3 TO 4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.
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ADDRESS
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STATE
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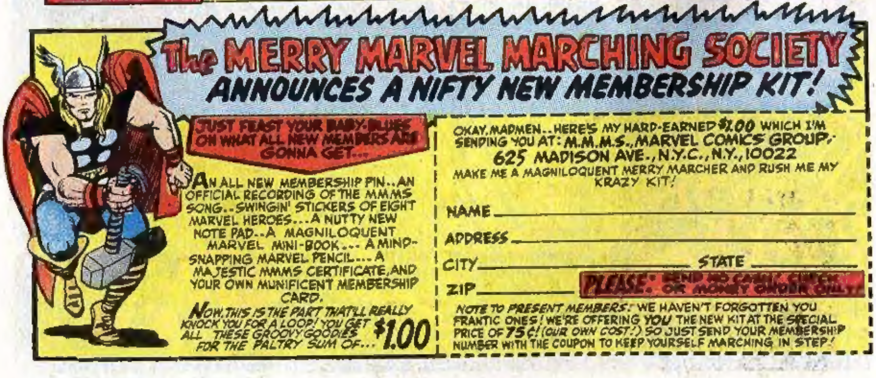
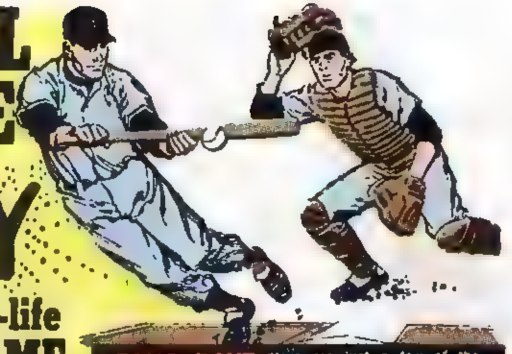


The MERRY MARVEL MARCHING SOCIETY
ANNOUNCES A NIFTY NEW MEMBERSHIP KIT!
JUST FEAST YOUR BABY-BLUES ON WHAT ALL NEW MEMBERS ARE GONNA GET...
AN ALL NEW MEMBERSHIP PIN..AN OFFICIAL RECORDING OF THE MMMS SONG..SWINGIN' STICKERS OF EIGHT MARVEL HEROES...A NUTTY NEW NOTE PAD..A MAGNILOQUENT MARVEL MINI-BOOK... A MIND-SNAPPING MARVEL PENCIL... A MAJESTIC MMMS CERTIFICATE, AND YOUR OWN MUNIFICENT MEMBERSHIP CARD.
NOW, THIS IS THE PART THAT'LL REALLY KNOCK YOU FOR A LOOP! YOU GET ALL THESE GROOVY GOODIES FOR THE PALTRY SUM OF... $1.00
OKAY, MADMEN..HERE'S MY HARD-EARNED $1.00 WHICH I'M SENDING YOU AT: M.M.M.S., MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 625 MADISON AVE., N.Y.C., N.Y., 10022
MAKE ME A MAGNILOQUENT MERRY MARCHER AND RUSH ME MY KRAZY KIT!
NAME
ADDRESS
CITY
STATE
ZIP
PLEASE:
NOTE TO PRESENT MEMBERS: WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU FRANTIC ONES! WE'RE OFFERING YOU THE NEW KIT AT THE SPECIAL PRICE OF 75¢! (OUR OWN COST!) SO JUST SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER WITH THE COUPON TO KEEP YOURSELF MARCHING IN STEP!

BASEBALL FANS ARE CRAZY



about this true-to-life BASEBALL GAME

• PITCHING • HITTING • FIELDING • RUNNING • MANAGING

Easy to play, real thrilling, exciting baseball with STRAT-O-MATIC. 400 big league players perform according to their actual abilities and your managerial decisions.

You, the manager, not only decide line-ups, insert pinch-hitters, pinch-runners, and relief pitchers, play your infield "in or deep," and make defensive changes at any time, but also call for the sacrifice, steal, hit-and-run, and squeeze-play. All strategy moves are possible with STRAT-O-MATIC.

You have real control over all 400 major league players — who actually hit, pitch, field, and run according to their baseball abilities.

Each player has truly individual qualities. He slumps and goes into hot streaks, performs heroics and commits errors. With STRAT-O-MATIC all qualities of a ballplayer are realistic.

If you like baseball, you'll love to play STRAT-O-MATIC

Get the entire story. Mail coupon for a colorful FREE BROCHURE containing complete information and FREE SAMPLES today! Offer limited. Don't delay. Write today while supply lasts!

FANS RAVE Here are just a few of the hundreds of letters we receive every week, from baseball fans aged 8 to 80, from coast to coast!

STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL is the best baseball game I ever have had. Kids swamp over the back porch to play this game! Boy, it is a lot of fun! Thank you for making such a wonderful game. *—P. C., Attleboro, Mass.*

Just like real baseball. It is fun to play. *—G. V., Cincinnati, O.*

As close to realism as one can get and therefore far more superior to other competing baseball games. *—F. T., Manila, P.I.*

Although it's fantastically realistic, it's also very simple to play. *—A. F., Los Angeles, Calif.*

I'm one hundred percent satisfied with it. The game provides hours of fun for me and my friends. It's very realistic, and true to life. *—C. H., Lanett, Ala.*

The best baseball game. It is realistic and yet not too difficult to play. *—P. M., Port Huron, Mich.*

Thank you for creating such an exciting yet realistic game and putting a shine to what might have been a boring summer. *—N. S., Los Angeles, Calif.*

Boys are waiting in line to play the game! *—A. H., Chicago, Ill.*

It has given me more pleasure than any other game. *—S. E., Rossville, Ind.*

The most exciting and fun game ever. *—L.S., Boston, Mass.*

It is so stupendous, words can't explain. *—J. R., Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Best on the market. *—J. E., Miami, Fla.*

Has given me more enjoyment than I have ever had from any one thing in my entire life. It's worth its weight in gold. As I love baseball, this game gives me something enjoyable to do during the off seasons as well as during the season. *—S. C., Temple City, Calif.*

STRAT-O-MATIC GAME CO., Inc., Box 541, Great Neck, N. Y. 11020

MAIL COUPON NOW FOR FREE Sample Offer!

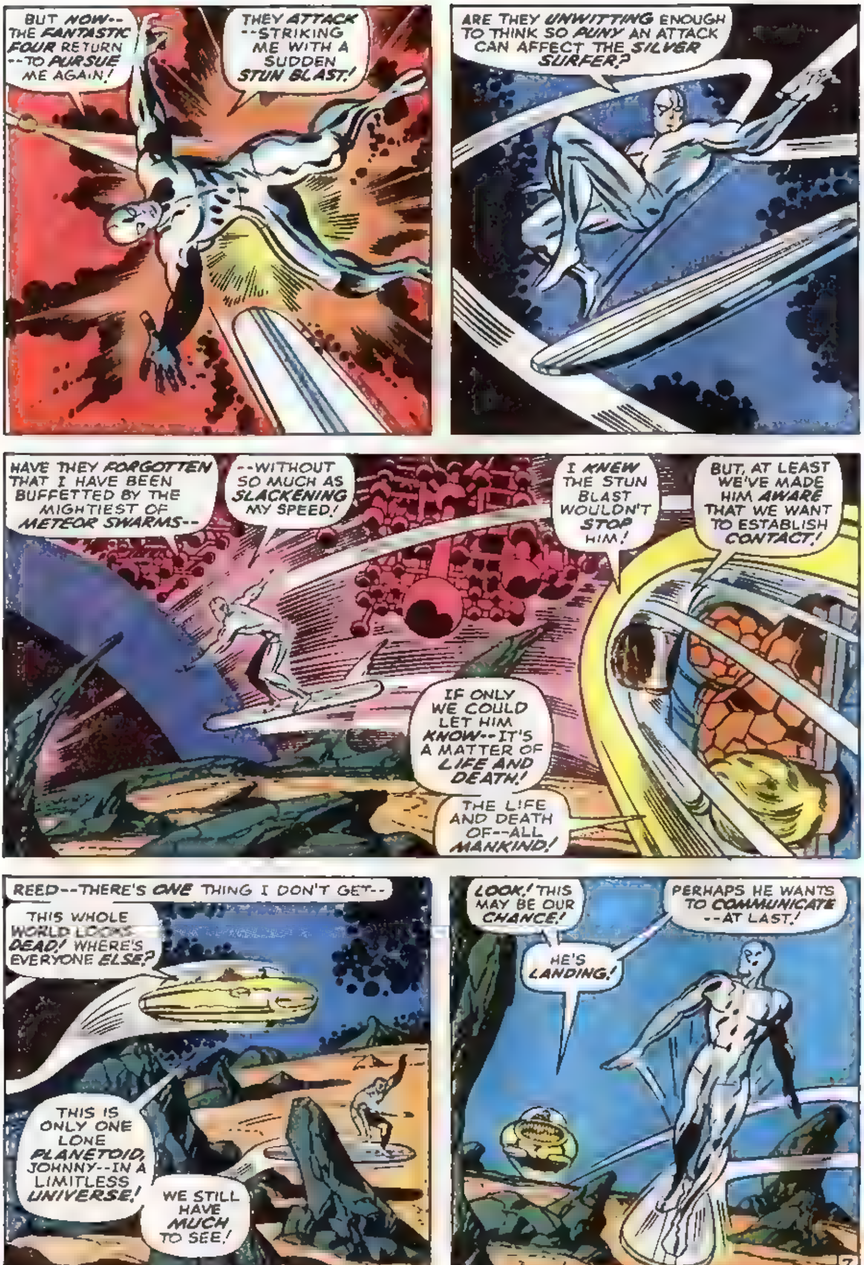
STRAT-O-MATIC GAME CO., Inc., Dept. 424, Box 541, Great Neck, N.Y. 11020

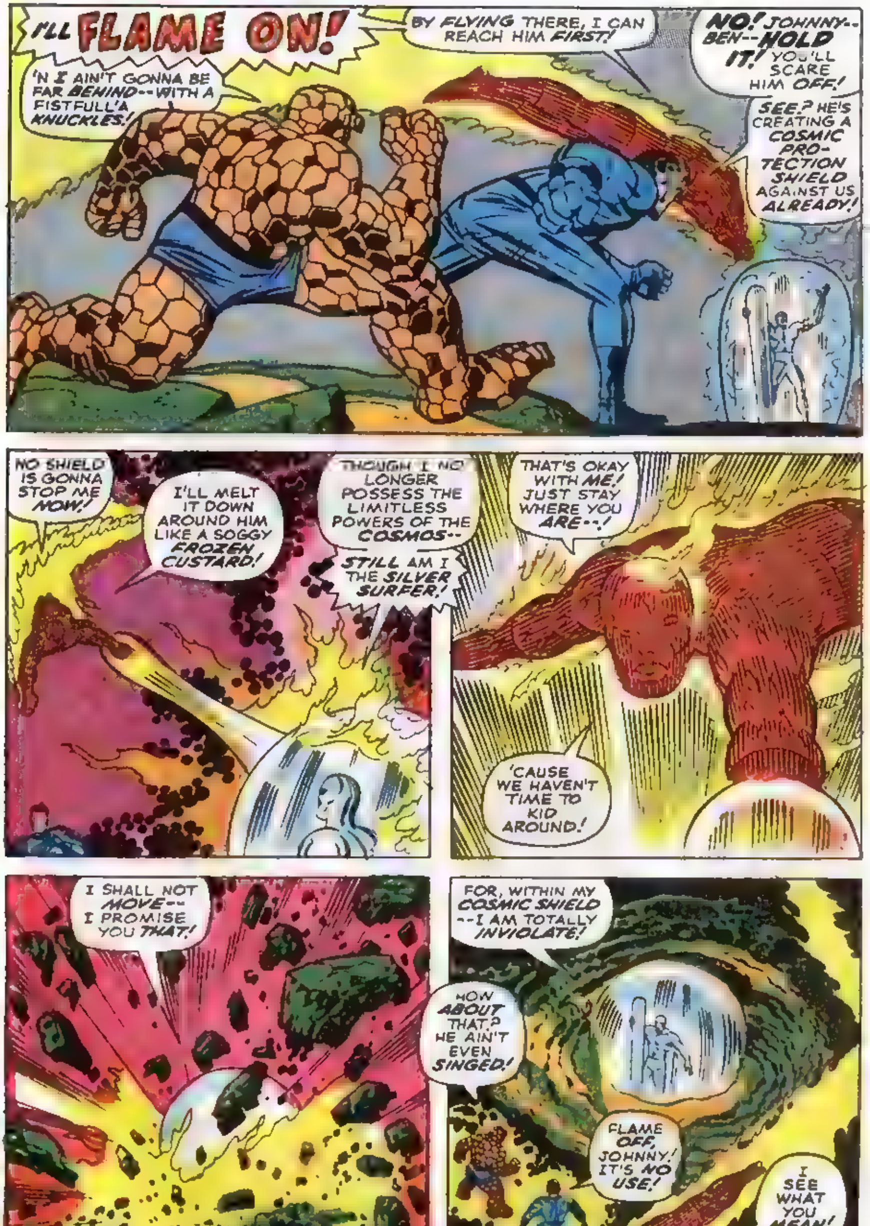
Send exciting FREE STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball Game offer and samples via 3rd class mail. (For speedy 1st class delivery, send 12c in coin or stamps.)

Name ____________________

Address ____________________

City ____________ State ________ Zip ________

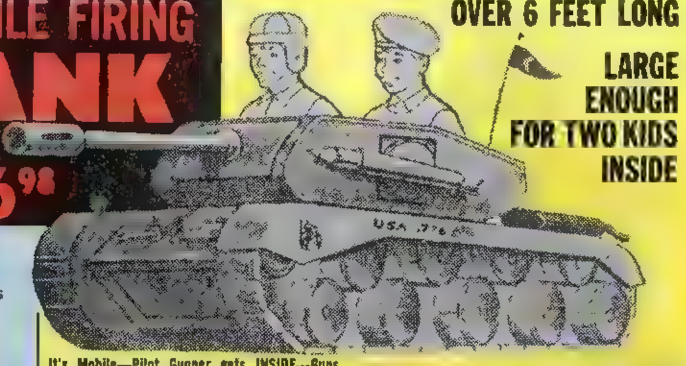

BUT NOW-- THE FANTASTIC FOUR RETURN --TO PURSUE ME AGAIN!
THEY ATTACK --STRIKING ME WITH A SUDDEN STUN BLAST!
ARE THEY UNWITTING ENOUGH TO THINK SO PUNY AN ATTACK CAN AFFECT THE SILVER SURFER?
HAVE THEY FORGOTTEN THAT I HAVE BEEN BUFFETTED BY THE MIGHTIEST OF METEOR SWARMS--
--WITHOUT SO MUCH AS SLACKENING MY SPEED!
I KNEW THE STUN BLAST WOULDN'T STOP HIM!
BUT, AT LEAST WE'VE MADE HIM AWARE THAT WE WANT TO ESTABLISH CONTACT!
IF ONLY WE COULD LET HIM KNOW--IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!
THE LIFE AND DEATH OF--ALL MANKIND!
REED--THERE'S ONE THING I DON'T GET--
THIS WHOLE WORLD LOOKS DEAD! WHERE'S EVERYONE ELSE?
THIS IS ONLY ONE LONE PLANETOID, JOHNNY--IN A LIMITLESS UNIVERSE!
WE STILL HAVE MUCH TO SEE!
LOOK! THIS MAY BE OUR CHANCE!
HE'S LANDING!
PERHAPS HE WANTS TO COMMUNICATE --AT LAST!
7


I'LL FLAME ON!
BY FLYING THERE, I CAN REACH HIM FIRST!
'N I AIN'T GONNA BE FAR BEHIND--WITH A FISTFULL'A KNUCKLES!
NO! JOHNNY--BEN--HOLD IT! YOU'LL SCARE HIM OFF!
SEE? HE'S CREATING A COSMIC PROTECTION SHIELD AGAINST US ALREADY!
NO SHIELD IS GONNA STOP ME NOW!
I'LL MELT IT DOWN AROUND HIM LIKE A SOGGY FROZEN CUSTARD!
THOUGH I NO LONGER POSSESS THE LIMITLESS POWERS OF THE COSMOS--
STILL AM I THE SILVER SURFER!
THAT'S OKAY WITH ME! JUST STAY WHERE YOU ARE--!
'CAUSE WE HAVEN'T TIME TO KID AROUND!
I SHALL NOT MOVE--I PROMISE YOU THAT!
FOR, WITHIN MY COSMIC SHIELD--I AM TOTALLY INVIOLATE!
HOW ABOUT THAT? HE AIN'T EVEN SINGED!
FLAME OFF, JOHNNY! IT'S NO USE!
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!
8

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

MISSILE FIRING TANK

ONLY $6.98



OVER 6 FEET LONG

LARGE ENOUGH FOR TWO KIDS INSIDE

FEATURES

- ★ Elevating 90mm Cannon
- ★ Rocket Launchers
- ★ Intercom System
- ★ Real Periscope
- ★ Revolving Turret
- ★ Rockets That Fire
- ★ Range Finder Sights
- ★ 2 Way Radio Control
- ★ Whip Antenna and Flag

It's Mobile—Pilot Gunner gets INSIDE—Guns Swivel—Turret Turns

Imagine your thrill when you get inside this authentic replica of the mighty "General Sherman" Tank and charge forward to adventure. This six foot hunk of equipment is so realistic with its mighty cannon and rocket launchers, swiveling machine gun simulated treads and other authentic tank features that it's bound to bring shouts of delight from any young warrior. And when you and a pal get right down into the fully equipped control room and close the cockpit cover—you can bet you are using your tremendous fire power to devastate every imaginary enemy in your path. Sturdily constructed of 200# test fibreboard for long periods of fun, it's bound to bring more thrills and adventure than you have ever known from a toy. So don't delay! Act now. Only $6.98. Because of its gigantic size we are forced to ask for an additional 75¢ shipping charges.

10 DAY FREE TRIAL: Order this sensational "General Sherman" Tank on 10 day free trial. If you are not 100% delighted, then your purchase price will be refunded.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

HONOR HOUSE PRODUCTS CORP. DEPT.77 TA 42
LYNBROOK, NEW YORK 11563

Rush me my "General Sherman" Tank, I Can use it for 10 days and if I am not delighted return it for full purchase price refund.

- ☐ Send it Prepaid I enclose $6.98 plus 75c to help cover shipping charges
- ☐ Send it C O D I Enclose $1 good-will deposit and I will pay postman $5.98 on delivery plus C.O.D. postage.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

WE'LL PAY YOU $10,000.00 FOR THIS LINCOLN PENNY

WHAT'S RIGHT ... a Lincoln cent minted less than twenty five years ago is worth $10,000.00! Coins do NOT have to be old to be valuable! Don't send any coins until you get our valuable coin catalog ($1) that shows what WE PAY for ALL coins!

...AND WE'LL PAY $350.00 FOR THIS CENT (MINTED LESS THAN 15 YEARS AGO!)

...YOU CAN GET $300.00 FOR THIS DIME (MINTED LESS THAN 25 YEARS AGO!)

...WILL SEND YOU $2000.00 FOR THIS SILVER DOLLAR (MINTED LESS THAN 75 YEARS AGO!)

32 page hobby booklet sent with every order.

DO NOT SEND ANY COINS until you receive our illustrated U.S. coin catalog ($1) which shows prices WE PAY for all U.S. coins.

CENTRE COIN CO. P.O. Box 5490-A
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Rush me your U.S. coin catalog. I enclose $1 which is refundable if I am not completely satisfied:

Name

Address

City State Zip

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TREASURE HUNT!

We want to buy ALL coins, current and obsolete that are scarce and rare! Just identify the valuable ones with our catalog ($1) and send them to us ... your check goes out immediately! Just look at the prices we'll pay for CERTAIN coins:

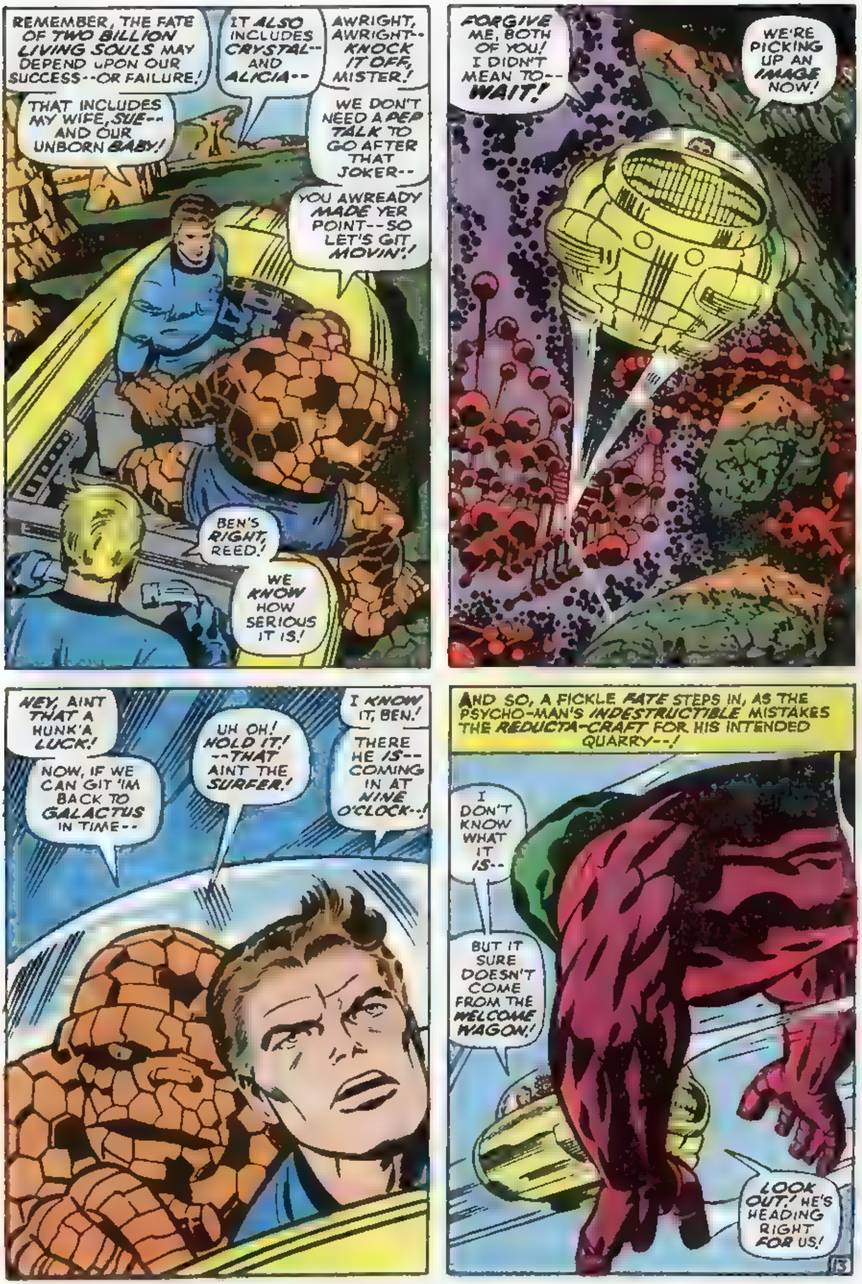
Get the catalog BEFORE sending your coins.

Gold coins before 1933	$ 900.00
Silver dollars before 1935	$2000.00
Dimes before 1945	$1000.00
Cents before 1956	$ 200.00
Half dollars before 1956	$ 225.00
Quarters before 1956	$ 100.00

HEADS UP, BEN!
I'LL INTERCEPT THE BOARD AS BEST I CAN--!
UNHHH!
THANKS, THIN MAN! THAT WOULD'A DUSTED MY CREW-CUT FOR SURE!
STAND CLEAR!
A THING LIKE THAT CAN GIVE YA SOME CHARLIE HORSE!
THE MOMENTUM IS SPINNING IT AROUND!
I'M BEING HAMSTRUNG BY MY OWN RIGHT ARM!
I'LL GITCHA OUTTA IT IN NO TIME!
LET ME! I CAN DO IT FASTER!
THIS TIME I'M GONNA CHARCOAL BROIL THAT CRUMMY BOARD OF HIS!
DON'T TRY IT, JOHNNY!
IT'S NOT MADE OF ORDINARY WOOD!
WE'VE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT MIGHT HAP-- JOHNNY!
FFFSST!
YOU UNTHINKING FOOL!
CAN A MERE BURST OF EARTHLY FLAME AFFECT AN OBJECT WHICH HAS SKIRTED THE SURFACE OF A THOUSAND BLAZING SUNS?!!
10

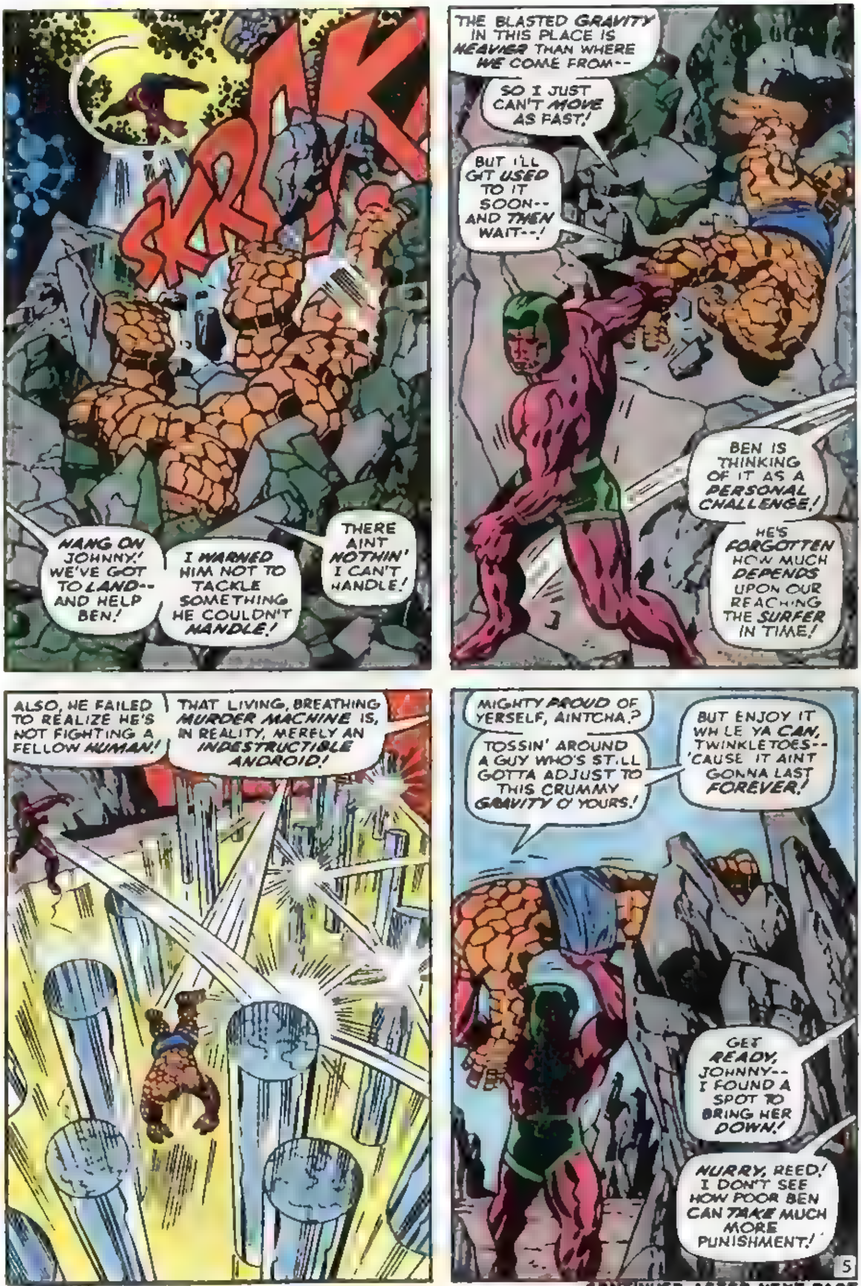
NOW LET MY BOARD RETURN TO ME!
FOR I HAVE TARRIED LONG ENOUGH!
AN UNKNOWN UNIVERSE UNFOLDS BEFORE ME--
AND I MUST ANSWER ITS SILENT SUMMONS!
MY EVERY SENSE INFORMS ME THAT INTELLIGENT LIFE EXISTS WITHIN THIS COSMOS!
THUS, I HAVE A GOAL--FOR I MUST FIND IT!
BUT, WITHIN A MATTER OF SECONDS, IT IS THE SURFER WHO IS FOUND--!
BEHIND ME--!
WHAT MANNER OF VESSEL IS THAT?
SINCE WE HATE TO LEAVE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS, LET US REVEAL THAT THE GLISTENING GLADIATOR HAS BEEN DISCOVERED BY A FLYING ROBOTIC PROBE-SHIP, CONTROLLED FROM AFAR BY THE MASTER SCIENTIST OF SUB-ATOMICA--THE SUPREMELY POWERFUL, TOTALLY MERCILESS MASTER OF THE MICRO-WORLD--THE EMOTIONLESS ENTITY KNOWN AS--PSYCHO-MAN!!
A CREATURE FROM THE MICRO-WORLD ABOVE--DARING TO INVADE SUB-ATOMICA!
I MUST LEARN HIS MISSION HERE--AND TAKE THE MEASURE OF HIS POWER!
THOUGH OUR SCIENCE IS FAR MORE ADVANCED THAN THEIRS--
MY FATEFUL ENCOUNTER WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAD TAUGHT ME NEVER TO COMMIT THE FOOLHARDY OFFENSE OF UNDERESTIMATING THEM!
11

THEREFORE, I MUST HAVE HIM BROUGHT TO ME--
--AS A HELPLESS, CRUSHED, AND DESPAIRING CAPTIVE!
AND ONE THERE IS WHO CAN EFFORTLESSLY PERFORM SO VITAL A TASK--!
ARISE, MY INDESTRUCTIBLE ONE!
YOUR MASTER HAS NEED OF YOU ONCE MORE!
JOURNEY FOURTH-- AND FIND THE ONE I SEEK!
LET NOTHING KEEP YOU FROM YOUR GOAL!
MEANWHILE, THREE WEARY, BATTERED FIGURES TAKE A BREATHER, AS THEY DESPERATELY PONDER THEIR NEXT MOVE--
WELL, IF WE HADDA TAKE OUR LUMPS, I'M GLAD NO ONE WUZ AROUND TA SEE IT!
FORGET YOUR PRIDE, BEN!
REMEMBER, THE FATE OF EARTH IS STILL AT STAKE!
AND A FAT LOT WE'RE DOING ABOUT IT!
I'LL TAKE THE BLAME THIS TIME!
I WAS SO ANXIOUS TO FIND THE SURFER--I DIDN'T WORK OUT A PLAN FOR DEALING WITH HIM!
AWW, FERGET IT, PAL! WE AINT HANDIN' OUT REPORT CARDS AROUND HERE!
THE BIG THING IS--WHAT DO WE DO NEXT, REED?
WE GO AFTER HIM AGAIN! AND THIS TIME-- WE GET HIM!



REMEMBER, THE FATE OF TWO BILLION LIVING SOULS MAY DEPEND UPON OUR SUCCESS--OR FAILURE!
IT ALSO INCLUDES CRYSTAL--AND ALICIA--
AWRIGHT, AWRIGHT--KNOCK IT OFF, MISTER!
THAT INCLUDES MY WIFE, SUE--AND OUR UNBORN BABY!
WE DON'T NEED A PEP TALK TO GO AFTER THAT JOKER--
YOU AWREADY MADE YER POINT--SO LET'S GIT MOVIN'!
BEN'S RIGHT, REED!
WE KNOW HOW SERIOUS IT IS!
FORGIVE ME, BOTH OF YOU! I DIDN'T MEAN TO-- WAIT!
WE'RE PICKING UP AN IMAGE NOW!
HEY, AINT THAT A HUNK'A LUCK!
NOW, IF WE CAN GIT 'IM BACK TO GALACTUS IN TIME--
UH OH! HOLD IT! --THAT AINT THE SURFER!
I KNOW IT, BEN!
THERE HE IS--COMING IN AT NINE O'CLOCK--!
AND SO, A FICKLE FATE STEPS IN, AS THE PSYCHO-MAN'S INDESTRUCTIBLE MISTAKES THE REDUCTA-CRAFT FOR HIS INTENDED QUARRY--!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS--
BUT IT SURE DOESN'T COME FROM THE WELCOME WAGON!
LOOK OUT! HE'S HEADING RIGHT FOR US!
13

DID YOU SEE THAT?
HE SLAMMED RIGHT INTO THE SHIP--WITHOUT EVEN FEELING IT!
HE'S TRYING TO SMASH HIS WAY RIGHT TO US!
GIT THE ESCAPE HATCH OPEN, STRETCH! I'LL GIT RIDDA HIM!
BUT, BEN--ANYONE WHO COULD ABSORB THE IMPACT HE JUST TOOK--WITHOUT BATTING AN EYE--!
EVEN YOUR STRENGTH CAN'T MATCH HIS!
ANYONE EVER TELL YA YOU TALK TOO MUCH?
GIT LOST, MAC! NO HITCH-HIKERS!
BOK!
WASSAMATTER? AINTCHA GOT ENOUGH SENSE TA FALL DOWN WHEN YA BEEN CLOBBERED?
BOY! STRETCHO COULD SURE TAKE SOME CLAM UP LESSONS FROM YA!
BEN! BREAK AWAY! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST!
I GOT NEWS FOR YA--
I'M FINDIN' OUT--REAL FAST!
14



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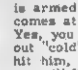

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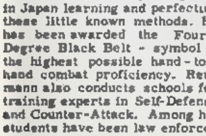
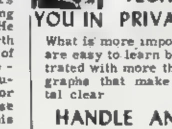


PROBLEM 14
Your opponent has grasped you by the throat with his right hand You will ________



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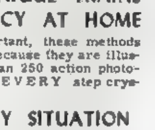
PROBLEM 5.
Your opponent has a gun at your back, just above your waist Before he kills you, you must ________



PROBLEM 2
Your opponent has his right arm around your neck from the rear to strangle you You could out maneuver him by ____

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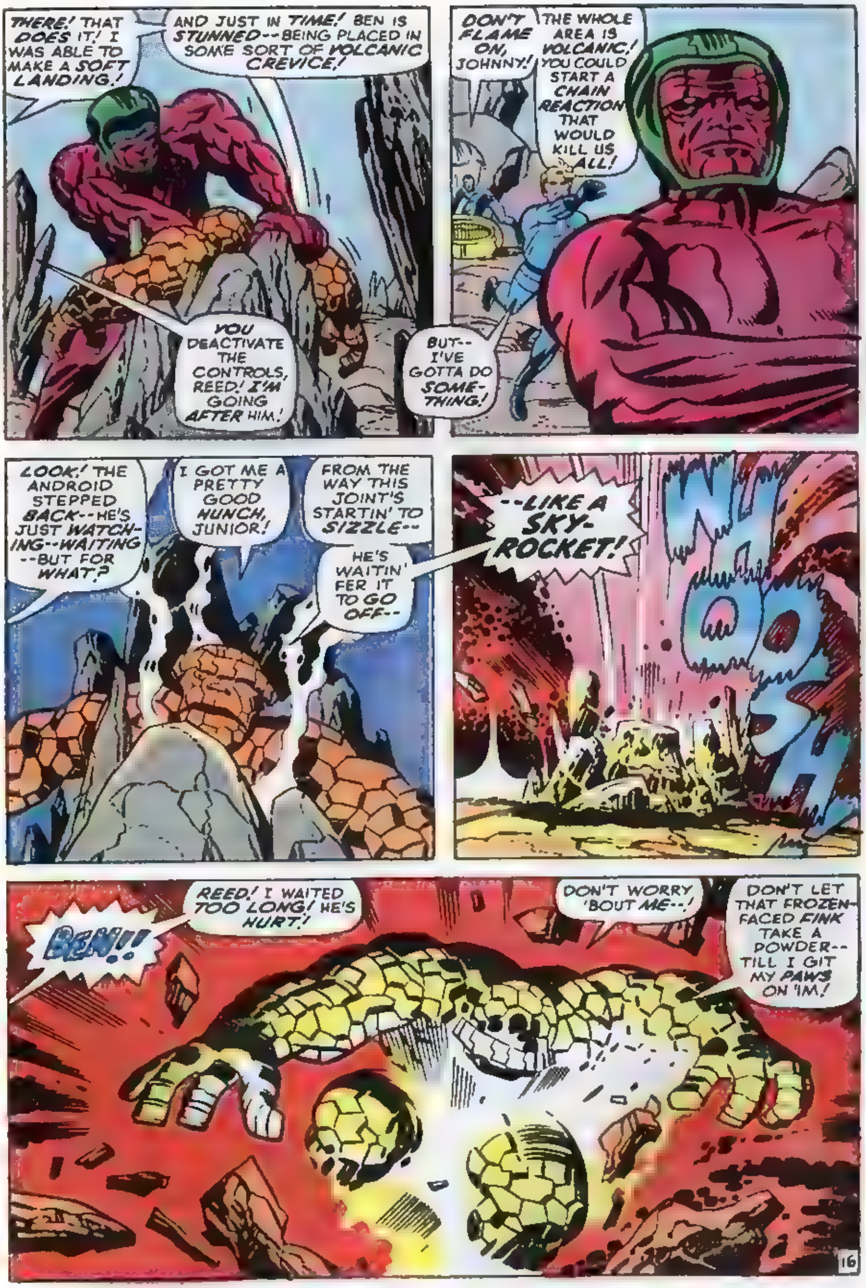
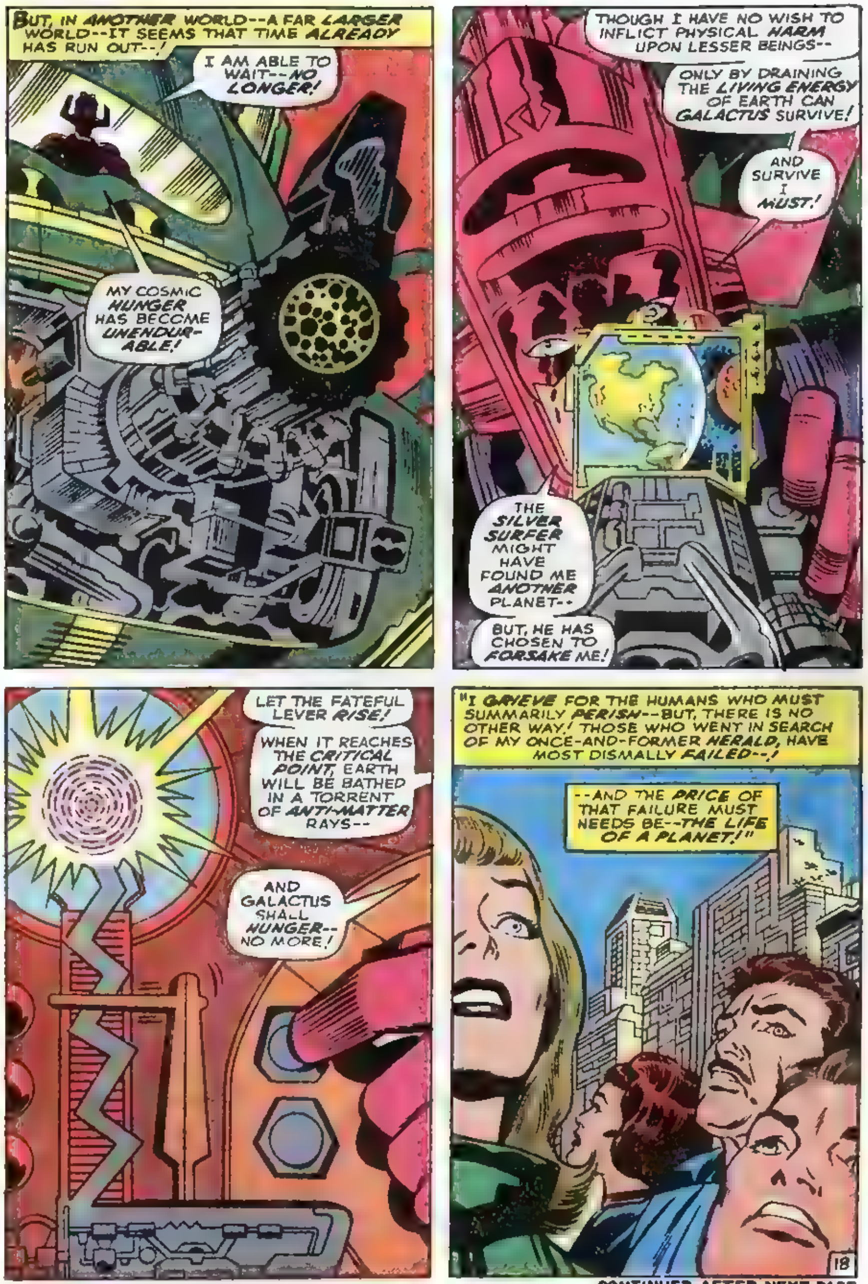


THERE! THAT DOES IT! I WAS ABLE TO MAKE A SOFT LANDING!
AND JUST IN TIME! BEN IS STUNNED--BEING PLACED IN SOME SORT OF VOLCANIC CREVICE!
YOU DEACTIVATE THE CONTROLS, REED! I'M GOING AFTER HIM!
DON'T FLAME ON, JOHNNY!
THE WHOLE AREA IS VOLCANIC! YOU COULD START A CHAIN REACTION THAT WOULD KILL US ALL!
BUT-- I'VE GOTTA DO SOME-THING!
LOOK! THE ANDROID STEPPED BACK--HE'S JUST WATCHING--WAITING --BUT FOR WHAT?
I GOT ME A PRETTY GOOD HUNCH, JUNIOR!
FROM THE WAY THIS JOINT'S STARTIN' TO SIZZLE--
HE'S WAITIN' FER IT TO GO OFF--
--LIKE A SKY-ROCKET!
WHOOSH
BEN!!
REED! I WAITED TOO LONG! HE'S HURT!
DON'T WORRY 'BOUT ME--!
DON'T LET THAT FROZEN-FACED FINK TAKE A POWDER-- TILL I GIT MY PAWS ON 'IM!

YOU'VE DONE YOUR SHARE, OLD FRIEND!
NOW IT'S UP TO US!
I'VE GOTTA USE MY FLAME, REED! BUT I'LL CONCENTRATE IT JUST IN ONE SPOT!
WE'LL SEE IF HE CAN TAKE IT AS GOOD AS HE DISHES IT OUT!
FOR THE LUVVA MIKE! YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT HIM--
HE MUST BE INDESTRUC-TIBLE!
HE JUST STANDS THERE-- LIKE NOTHING'S HAPPEN-ING!
BUT LET'S SEE HOW HE REACTS TO A SALVO OF THERMO-BLASTS!
REED! THEY'RE PASSING RIGHT THRU HIM--
NOTHING CAN HURT HIM!
NOTHING CAN STOP HIM! --NOTHING
AND NOW-- HE'S ABOUT TO ATTACK AGAIN!
BUT WE CAN'T LET HIM STOP US! WE HAVE TO FIND THE SURFER!
BEFORE OUR TIME RUNS OUT!
17



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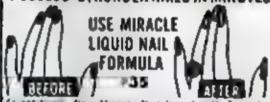

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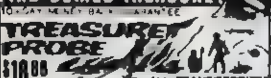

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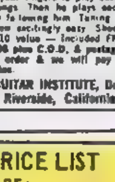

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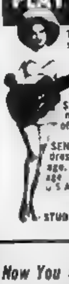

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STILL--FAILURE IS BUT A SINGLE WORD--FAR BETTER SUITED TO OTHERS THAN TO THOSE WHO NEVER SURRENDER--!
INTO THE SHIP --BOTH OF YOU!
I'LL HOLD HIM OFF WHILE YOU GO AFTER THE SURFER!
NO! WE CAN'T LEAVE YOU-- YOU WON'T HAVE A CHANCE!
MEBBE YOU AINT SO MUCH, BUT NO MISERABLE ANDROID'S GONNA FLATTEN YA WHILE I'M AROUND!
FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN-- GET GOING!
YOU'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!
MY LIFE MEANS NOTHING! BUT ONLY THE SURFER CAN SAVE MANKIND!
NOW THERE'S NO TURNING BACK!
IF YOU MAKE IT-- TELL SUE--MY LAST THOUGHTS WERE OF HER--AND OF--THE BABY!
WHAT HAPPENED?!!
I HURTLED THRU HIM--AS THOUGH HE'S--SUDDENLY FADING AWAY!
HE IS FADING--
VANISHING--RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!
CAREFUL! IT MAY BE-- A TRICK!
19

NOTE: OUR ***LETTERS SECTION*** APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

THE SECOND GOLDEN AGE OF MARVEL IS HERE!

(And You Didn't Even Bake A Cake!)

ITEM! To give you an idea how far in advance we have to write these pithy pages, it's the day after Christmas, 1967, at this very moment as we write these lines . . . but you'll probably be reading this sometime in April, 1968! And you wonder why we have trouble remembering things! Anyway, onward —

ITEM! Well, we did it! In the space of a few short months, we've given the HULK, CAPTAIN AMERICA, IRON MAN, SUB-MARINER, SHIELD, and DR. STRANGE their own feature-length magazines — and each and every one is on sale MONTHLY. But, if you expect us to give you a chance to catch your breath, forget it! Here come the latest developments in Marvel's march to a nervous breakdown —

ITEM! From now on, MARVEL SUPERHEROES, our big, brawny 25¢ bi-monthly block-buster, will feature a different super-hero star each ish. And, if your letters are as enthusiastic as we expect them to be, we'll eventually award a complete monthly mag to our costumed caverters! The first sensational superstar to be so *featured* — on sale right now — is none other than the miraculous MEDUSA, the gorgeous long-haired siren of the incomparable INHUMANS! Drawn by Genial Gene Colan, we promise you the fantasy thrill of the month, replete with dazzling guest stars and a zillion surprises! And that's only the beginning—!

ITEM! One of our greatest new mags is such a howlin' success that we're gonna print it every two months from now on in a king-sized 25¢ edition! The first of these new special-size editions goes on sale next month — but, till then, see if you can guess which title it is! ALSO — we're introducing a second 25-center next month, but it'll be a brand-new title! (A favorite super-hero guest star of yours, but he's never had his own mag before!) There, that'll give you something to think about while you're counting your no-prizes!

ITEM! We're just throwing this little tidbit in for kicks. Didja know that MILLIE THE MODEL, the mag we always kid about and poke fun at, has become one of the best-selling titles on our world-famous list? It's a fact! The only explanation we can think of is that there must be more frantic ones than we ever suspected who like nutty stories about a gorgeous blonde model featuring the corniest gags ol' Smiley can write! And how about the RAWHIDE KID? We had almost forgotten that we still publish our last remaining wild-'n-wooly Western until we saw Merry Marty Goodman reading the sales reports with a big grin, and we realized that every "They went thataway" fan in the world must be buying out all the copies! So, thanks to all you literature-lovers for proving once again that the more we know, the less we know!

ITEM! And now, the BIG one! The announcement you've been waiting for! Our precedent-shattering 35¢ SPIDER-MAN Spectacular is now on sale! It features the longest single super-hero thriller ever published in a comics-mag — an actual FIFTY-TWO PAGE mystery-action epic! PLUS — a feature-length ORIGIN OF SPIDER-MAN, completely rewritten and redrawn for this landmark issue! Every wondrous word is from the enchanted pen of our light-hearted leader, Stan the Man — while Jazzy Johnny Romita ramrodded the 52-pager's artwork, aided by our newest Bullpen great — Jim (Madman) Mooney! As for the Origin of Spidey, wait'll you see how Larrupin' Larry Lieber breathed new life into that now-classic chronicle. But, the best part of it is the mag itself. Although in comic-book format, it ISN'T a comic-book! It's a real, glitzy, status-drenched, slick-paper publication! You'll have to look for it amongst the so-called "better" magazines at your newsstand — and we promise you this — it'll be worth the trouble! And now, a word of advice — after you've bought it, don't trade it, lend it, or lose it! It's destined to become a highly-prized collectors' item the minute it's all sold out — which'll be 'most any second now! So don't just stand there, pilgrim — GET IT! You know how we hate to see a grown man cry!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Now that the news is out about our jumbo-sized Spidey mag, everybody's been asking what'll happen to our web-slinger's regular 12¢ bestseller! The answer is — nothing! It's still being published each and every month, the same as always. The new 35¢ thriller is an ADDITIONAL mag, not a replacement! And, while we're on the subject, I've gotta tell you this. There have been very few individual mags which I've personally recommended to you — (mostly because I think they're ALL kinda good) — but this time I'm going way out on a limb. If you buy no other Marvel mag this month, I urge you to latch onto the new SPIDER-MAN Spectacular! It's far more than just another gimmick—it represents an entirely new concept in superhero presentation! It represents possibly Marvel's finest achievement to date — and it contains a mind-staggering hint of things yet to come! This month will go down in history as the month of another new Marvel milestone — and you'll be a part of it! But now, it's time to cut out — before you think we're trying to sell you something! Pax et justitia!, —*Smiley.*

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Spectacular #1: This is it! Possibly the greatest super-hero mag Marvel has ever produced. Featuring a 52-page shocker entitled "Lo, This Monster!", plus the "Origin of Spidey". A bargain at twice the price — but not for the timid!

NOT BRAND ECHH #8: Run for the hills, gang — he's back! None other than feeble Forbush-Man has returned, to tackle almost every superhero in sight! It's the whackiest, wildest adventure into hysteria you've ever howled at! And wait'll you see who poor Forbie has to fight!

SPIDER-MAN #62: You never expected it to happen! In fact, WE never expected it to happen! But Spidey has the fight of his life — against Medusa! And adventuredom will never be the same again!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #15, Starring MEDUSA!: Having whetted your appetite for the lady with the living hair in SPIDER-MAN, we now present the exciting Inhuman in her own full-length thriller! She, and Gene the Dean's artwork, have never been wilder!

AVENGERS #53: Our ever-lovin' assemblers — the extraordinary X-Men — even the baneful Brotherhood of Evil Mutants! And wait'll you dig who finally ends up the howlin' hero in our mind-boggling climax! Sheesh!

X-MEN #45: This ish is the lead-in to AVENGERS #53—but what a lead-in! You'll see Cyclops battling it out with the one and only Quicksilver — while the lives of his fellow X-Men hang in the balance!

DAREDEVIL #41: It had to happen! You are about to witness "The Death of Mike Murdock!" But, what happens to Matt Murdock? And how does Daredevil battle the Exterminator and his Unholy Three? Well, why not see for yourself?

MIGHTY THOR #153: If you've been wondering what happened to Dr. Don Blake, this is the yarn for you. But maybe we shouldn't tell you that Loki finally has the upper hand!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #103: It's like a nightmare! The girl Cap loves, a prisoner of the deadly Red Skull! And, when he finally saves her, our hero has signed his own death warrant!

INCREDIBLE HULK #105: They call our power-packed villain the Missing Link — and, when you see how he tears into ol' Green Skin, you'll see why the Incredible One wishes he had stayed missing! It's a blast!

IRON MAN #3: Who said we'd forgotten all about Shellhead's pal, Happy Hogan? Not your brain-bustin' Bullpen! But, along with Hap, we've also brought back his evil alter ego . . . the awesomely powerful Freak! Hooo boy!

SUB-MARINER #3: Namor and the titanic Triton — chained together as unwilling allies! The pernicious Plant Man! The walking monstrosity they call the Leviathan! Put them all together, and they spell action!

MARVEL'S SPACE-BORN SUPERHERO! CAPTAIN MARVEL #3: It's a fight to the finish between Mar-Vell and the startlingly sinister Super Skrull! What's more, we tossed in a minor nuclear holocaust or two — just to keep things hopping!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD #2: On an incredible island — amid danger such as mortal man has never witnessed — the redoubtable leader of Shield must defeat the monsters who defied evolution . . . or perish!

DR. STRANGE #170: For years, you've demanded it! And now it's here — the return of the reprehensible Nightmare, in the mystically magnificent tale we couldn't resist calling — "To Dream . . . Perchance to Die!"

SGT. FURY #55: Pam Hawley lives — or does she? With those wondrous words ringing in your shell-shocked ears, you are destined to share with our hard-bitten Howler ramrod one of the most startling war-mag sagas of all!

CAPT. SAVAGE #3: Still on sale — if you're lucky! Savage and his Japanese enemy must combine forces to battle for survival on the island fortress of Hydra! A guts-and-glory epic you won't forget!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #15: The FF, Iron Man, Doctor Strange, and the Hulk — all in one incredible issue! Just goes to prove that only Marvel has the mags you never get tired of — Marvel after Marvel!

MARVEL TALES #10: Spidey — Thor — the Human Torch — and Marvel Boy! Four of the best reasons yet for signing up for the duration of the Marvel Age of Comics! (And, it may just last forever!)

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Fantastic Four (4) Fan Page

Send letters to: LEE and KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV.
NEW YORK 10022 N. Y.

Dear Stan and Jack,

I just got F.F. #72 and I must congratulate you. It was one of the most amazing comics I've ever read, and that's pretty good. But basic plaudits just swell your heads. I'll be specific. (If that swells your heads, at least it will do it specifically!) The cover was undoubtedly the best ever. Not the F.F. but the Silver Surfer — my favorite "person" in comics. He reminds me of Valentine Michael Smith — if you don't know who that is, try Robert Heinlein's "Stranger in a Strange Land". The ghost image of the Watcher and the three color universe background in the inimitable Kirby style made the cover truly perfect. The Watcher gets better every appearance. He, with the Surfer, Hulk and the Asgardian and Olympian Immortals, makes up part of your list of unique characters. His lines on page 13, panel 5 were the greatest and most philosophical ever to reach the comic book field. Thank you, Stan and Jack. The Silver Surfer's motives were noble as always. His methods were highly unusual, to say the least. I found the story to be perfect, without a flaw. The letters pages were good. Imagine, three references to the world's best fantasy story which even overshadows your comics! May Saruman, Sauron and Margoth never attack the Bullpen!

Bennet Marks, 341 Blacksmith Rd.
Levittown, N. Y. 11756

They won't, if they know what's good for 'em! Even their likes would have a hard time penetrating a Bullpen full of size 20 heads — and, boy, are we ever glad you swelled them *specifically!*

Dear Stan and Jack,

I couldn't pass up commenting on the four sentences on page 13, panel 5 in F.F. #72 where Sue says, "But what . . . can he do . . . against the all-powerful Silver Surfer?" Then the Watcher replies, "All-powerful? There is only one who deserves that name! And His only weapon is Love!" Stan, if you wrote these words into the Watcher you deserve a tremendous amount of praise! I assume you were speaking of the only true God, weren't you? This phrase helps clear up a lot in comicdom. I have always been confused about how He (God) was tied up in comic magazines. What I mean is, do all people in comics worship Odin, Zeus, or the only All-powerful God? Now, though, I know where Galactus, the Silver Surfer, the Watcher, etc. stand in relation to organized religion. But whether you know it or not, the statement, ". . . His only weapon is Love" is wrong. As I John 4 8 says, "God is love!" But this is not the only weapon He possesses. His other weapons are Wisdom, Justice, and Power. These attributes He instilled in man at his creation and I'm glad to hear that the Bullpen Gang believes there is a God and that He is not dead as so many false religions teach. Thanks for publishing the best comazines ever, and keep up the good work that you've been doing since your beginning.

Jim Morgan, R.R. #2
Belle Plaine, Kansas 67013

We'll try, Jimmy — and we appreciate your comments on the Watcher's observation. Perhaps we can never all accept the same meaning of God — but, don't you agree that mankind is far better off with than without Him?

Dear Stan and Jack,

The F.F. was once the greatest fighting team ever assembled. Reed Richards, one of the world's greatest scientific minds, provided expert leadership. The omnipotent Thing was one of the most powerful heroes ever. The Human Torch's unique abilities, including the power of a super nova, made him a force to be reckoned with. And, of course, Sue Storm got the group into all kinds of juicy trouble to fight their way out of. What a comic! But then Sue got this complex about not contributing enough to the team, so you started emphasizing "teamwork" — echh! After that a member of the F.F. couldn't get to the store for a loaf of bread without help. The loss of one member would immobilize the whole team. The once great Fantastic Four could no longer be considered a power nor the equal of the Avengers or the X-Men. But now you have the opportunity to change all that. You can put Reed and Sue in their own mag (called "The Fantastics", maybe?) and add two new members to the F.F. — the Torch, the Thing, and (choose any two) the Black Panther, Prince Namor, Black Bolt, Ka-Zar, the Black Knight, the Silver Surfer or Iron Man. The new F.F. would be a great fighting team. They wouldn't have to rely on tricks or theatrics to defeat their foes. They could do it in battle. The new mag with Reed and Sue and Reed, Jr. could have occasional visits from Uncle Ben and Uncle Johnny and would be an instant sensation. 'Nuff said?

Joe Mamberg, 117 North 16th
Keokuk, Iowa 52632

We're not sure, Joe! We'll grant you it's certainly a drastically *different* idea — but we don't know what the reaction of Marveldom Assembled might be! So, being the fair-minded Bullpen we are, we'll toss it out for debate! And that means speak up, O True Believers — tell us like it is! We have a hunch you won't for a second stand still for the idea of splitting up the stars of the world's greatest comic magazine — but even we could be wrong!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Well, you did it again! Another weird boo-boo in F.F. #72! At the end of the mag in next ish's preview you say that F.F. #72 will be the greatest in a decade, but please take note this was printed in #72! Sheesh! Didn't you mean ish #73 will be the greatest?? By the way, I asked my science teacher (also an avid F.F. Fan) about Sue's baby. He said that the baby would probably be a mutant with a totally new power, and the lab encyclopedia backs him up. Hmmmm . . . maybe the baby will be able to stretch force fields! One more thing, the plot in F.F. #72 was great. Well, till Honest Irv hands out cigars in the Maternity Ward, face front!

Mike Nassour, 3201 Yellowpine Terr.
Austin, Tex. 78757

We'll *have* to, Mike — 'cause, after the bombastic boner you spotted, facing *backwards'd* probably just get us clouted in the kisser with a tomato by millions of Marvel minions! What you have to realize, though, is that Stan and Jack are a little worried about the coming blessed event — so how can you hold a little slip against them? After all, it's practically like they're about to become fathers themselves!

Now hear this! Please keep all letters no longer than ONE PAGE! Have mercy, mellow ones!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I have returned, and with me comes a load of comments on F.F. #72. So, the Watcher has once again returned and is breaking his oath not to meddle in Earth's affairs for the hundredth time, but look at this — he's finally had time to pick up a new set of threads. Three cheers for the Fantastic Three. Yes, you heard me right. Whatever happened since you told us readers that Crystal would temporarily replace Sue in the F.F.? She only appears at the beginning of the story, wishes everybody luck (if you call her saying that they don't have a chance against the Surfer as luck) and then fades out of existence till the next issue. Congratulations on the first perfect art job in months. Finally we get to see a fight without seeing thousands of petty pieces of rock, trees, machines, etc. exploding and cluttering up the landscape. Thanks for the guest shot of "Thunderbolt" Ross. I thought you might have forgotten that he was transferred from the Southwest to guard the capital. It must be homecoming week at Marvel — the F.F. still have and use the pogo plane and flare signal device after all. It's weakening time, too. First Thor and now SS loses his power. What happened to Johnny's clothes? When he first flamed on he had on a white shirt and brown slacks, but when he flamed off he had his uniform on!

Gene Wallace, 405 E. Court St.
Flint, Mich. 48506

Woud'ja believe the street threads weren't exactly *fire-proof*? Well, you'd better, 'cause that's the only excuse we've got! As for Crystal's role in the FF's activities, it just could be that she's observing and learning to fit into the teamwork pattern required to be a successful member of a tightly-knit group — sort of like an NFL rookie spends a couple of seasons on the bench learning how his team functions as a perfect unit! (A tip of the hat to *Vinnie Lombardi* for getting us out of *that* one!)

Dear Stan and Jack,

Upon finishing F.F. #72, I felt it necessary to write to you. First of all, the artwork was superbly done. My congratulations to Jack for that. Also the plot was handled in such a manner that only Stan Lee could reveal it for us mere readers. In other words, I congratulate all the Bullpen for producing one of the best comics on the market today. But there's one thing that has turned the color of my hair lighter than any hair coloring dye on the market, and that is the statement made by the Thing, "Hey! Without his cosmic power, he's like any Joe . . . on a flyin' surfboard". If this statement implies that the Silver Surfer has lost virtually all his power except for the ability to control his board, then that I don't like. The SS is too noble a character to be treated in that fashion after the way he has been kicked around on this earth by us. Secondly, he is one of my favorite sky-born heroes next to the Watcher himself, and that in itself is reason enough. If he loses his power, then I will be compelled to organize a protest march in front of your office! One more thing, I liked the way you, in a roundabout manner, editorialize through your characters' dialogue about the world problems we are now faced with. No other publishers seem to do this the way you do. Also, it gives a person a feeling of uneasiness if he hasn't been living right and the will to do better by imitating the moral conduct of your characters. If anything will bring this world to its senses, your comics will certainly help.

Jimmy Holan, 7418 Parker Dr.
Houston, 16, Tex.

All we can say to that, Jimbo, is that — though the primary function of our mags is to *entertain* — we kinda figure this pulsatin' planet of ours can use all the help it can get, so if we're making *any* moves in that direction, we're proud of it! Now, as for Surfy becoming just a silver-skinned hot dogger, we're gonna keep you in suspense for a while — although we gotta admit he doesn't strike us as the type to let *one wipe-out* keep him off the waves for keeps!

Dear Stan and Jack,

My highest congratulations to you. Never in any other comic have I seen a story like "Where Soars the Silver Surfer!" It seems impossible to conceive such an emotion-stirring saga and still fit it into a mere 20 pages without crowding either plot or characterization. But you, Stan, have done it. The writing, coupled with the King's art, made me feel all the varied emotions of the Silver Surfer and the F.F. It was easy to see just what SS was trying to do. He became so fed up with all the war and hatred of man toward man that he planned to give us a way to get rid of them against him, a common enemy. This is one of the basic ways to stop man from fighting himself — give him some danger even more imminent than his enemy and he will do everything in his power to rid himself of it, even if it means becoming allies with the very enemy he had been trying to destroy only a while before. But the Surfer's plan was doomed to failure. One being is hardly enough to bring an entire planet to its senses. A better way would have been with some sort of natural disaster such as tornadoes or, even more extreme, possibly a stray asteroid on a collision course with earth. But even if he had succeeded, it would most likely have been only for a short time. Man may think he wants peace, but as yet his nature is not such that he can achieve peace. As I said, the Surfer's plan was doomed to failure. In a moment of almost rage he seemed to become ignorant and nearly mad. In his emotion he underestimated man's power and nearly lost his life. He himself said what had happened. When he lost his power he sadly proclaimed, "(I am) no longer mad enough to feel that one being alone could bring sanity to the human race!" Indeed it was mad, his scheme, and yet it was at the same time noble. He, who had been condemned to remain on a planet that he did not understand, was now trying to better it, though in a quite unorthodox manner. He was more like a child than a villain. Do I sense a bit of foreshadowing? At the climax of the story you have most of the Silver Surfer's cosmic power destroyed. Could this be because you plan to give him a book all his own and feel that as a supporting character he is fine but as a lead he is too powerful? I certainly hope so. Now I must sign off, but I want to express my sincerest gratitude for your supplying me with really worthwhile literary material. May you continue to do so for ages to come! Marvel! C'est une companie formidable, n'est-ce pas?

Dave FitzPatrick, 29 Cleveland St.
Arlington, Mass. 02174

We like to think so, Fitz, friend — and you can bet your silver surfboard we do our blockbustin' best to make it that way! We gotta confess, though, that letters like yours make a frankly fabulous fuel for the old Bullpen's bonfire! Now, as for the Silver Surfer getting his own mag, how's about if we just say that we have *big plans* for his future — and let it go at that for now? We figure this month's bulletin page already contained enough senses-shattering surprises to knock you outta your cosmic cube! So just keep watchin' our agonizin' announcements every ish — and the news you've been waiting for is bound to come flying around *le bureau de Baxter* when you least expect it!

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